

# Hikari the Light



April 2024



**A**pril 7th is our Hanamatsuri service at the BTSA.

As we gather in celebration of Hanamatsuri, (the festival of flowers), we are reminded of the profound teachings of compassion, wisdom, and enlightenment embodied by the Buddha. Hanamatsuri marks the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who would later become the Buddha, and symbolizes the beauty and renewal found in the awakening of enlightenment.

Just as the delicate petals of flowers unfurl, revealing their inner beauty to the world, so too does the Buddha's enlightenment illuminate the path to liberation and peace. Hanamatsuri invites us to reflect on the significance of this awakening in our own lives and how we can cultivate the seeds of compassion within ourselves.

In the journey towards enlightenment, the Buddha demonstrated unwavering compassion and empathy towards all sentient beings. He taught us to embrace the interconnectedness of life and to extend kindness and understanding to every living being, regardless of their differences. Hanamatsuri serves as a poignant reminder of our shared humanity and the importance of fostering compassion in our interactions with others.

As we celebrate Hanamatsuri, let us pause to contemplate the teachings of the Buddha and their relevance in our lives today. Let us strive to embody the principles of loving-kindness, empathy, and mindfulness in all our actions, cultivating a sense of inner peace and harmony that extends outward to the world around us.

Just as the flowers bloom and flourish under the warmth of the sun, may our hearts open and blossom with the light of wisdom and compassion. Let us embrace the spirit of Hanamatsuri and commit ourselves to walking the path of enlightenment with courage, grace, and humility.

In this season of renewal and growth, may the teachings of the Buddha inspire us to sow seeds of kindness, cultivate compassion, and spread love and joy wherever we go.

Wishing you all a joyous and meaningful Hanamatsuri.

Dr. Roland Ikuta, Minister

**BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

470-40 St S, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5  
403.327.1260 [btsaboard@gmail.com](mailto:btsaboard@gmail.com)

**BTSA Minister**

Rev. Dr. Roland Ikuta

**Minister Hours**

Wednesdays 9 AM – 5 PM

Thursdays 12 PM – 5 PM

Fridays 9 AM – 5 PM

Saturdays 9 AM – 2 PM

Sundays 9 AM – 2 PM

[revroland@shaw.ca](mailto:revroland@shaw.ca)

Cell 403.360.8400

Home 403.317.0078

[www.thebtsa.com](http://www.thebtsa.com)



## FAMILY-FOCUSED HANAMATSURI

Looking forward to seeing lots of children and grandchildren at this Hanamatsuri service! We like to celebrate them each year with treat bags and acknowledgements. Please consider joining us for this family-centred event that will involve a dharma talk for children by Rev. Ikuta and post-service intergenerational activities. **If you know of children planning to attend, please send along their ages to [brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com)** so we are better prepared.

# UPDATE from the Board of Directors

Greetings from the Board!

Please remember our upcoming BTSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, April 21, 2024. As usual, there will be an AGM package for attendees consisting of minutes from last year's AGM and a variety of reports. In an effort to reduce the number of paper copies, the AGM package can be emailed to you. Please send your request to [secretarybtsa@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybtsa@gmail.com). Alternatively, most of the documents will be posted on [thebtsa.com](http://thebtsa.com) website.

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Annual General Meeting will be held at our temple from April 25 to 27. BTSA members and the public are invited to attend the "Dharmathon" which will take place at the temple on Saturday, April 27 from 3 – 4:30 PM.

A new family event, Kodomono hi, will be held at the temple on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 1 – 6 PM and will feature a variety of fun and cultural events including karate, taiko, Minyo dancers, sing-along, and story telling. 50 children plus parents/grandparents can be accommodated.

A new system consisting of three microphones and receiver has been purchased for the temple. Also, a sturdy adjustable stand has been purchased for the large screen television. A web cam can be mounted on top. The large screen TV is used for zoom meetings and any time documents and presentations need to be projected to a group.

Hanamatsuri service will be held in conjunction with the April Shotsuki Memorial on Sunday, April 7 at 2 pm. For livestream, the YouTube link is below:

<https://youtube.com/live/Yef2KmU0Zuw?feature=share>

## CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE April & May 2024

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated

**Apr 07**  
HANAMATSURI, SHOTSUKI  
@ 2 p.m.  
Maya Ichikawa  
Brenda Ikuta, AV

**Apr 14**  
Kynan Ono  
AV TBD

**Apr 21**  
Sheila Oishi  
David Major, AV

**Apr 28**  
Andrew Ichikawa  
Bob Muskovich, AV

**May 05**  
SHOTSUKI  
Connie Ono  
Kynan Ono, AV

**May 12**  
Maya Ichikawa  
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

**May 19**  
Wayne Tsukishima  
Brenda Ikuta, AV

**May 26**  
Joyce Shigehiro  
AV TBD

# REMINDER AGM APRIL 21 & Special Services

The BTSA Hanamatsuri service will be held on April 7th at 2 PM.

Hanamatsuri is our service to celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. He was born in Lumbini Garden in Nepal around 2600 years ago. Please join us for this special service. A light lunch will follow.

## JSBTC AGM

The BTSA is hosting the AGM for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada on April 26th – 28th, 2024. This AGM will be held on Zoom for temple delegates but the JSBTC board of directors, directors of the Women's Federation and all the ministers from Canada will be present.

As part of the AGM the BTSA will host a Dharmathon from 3 - 4:30 PM on April 27th (Saturday) in the Hondo. The topic for the ministers will be "why they became a Jodo Shinshu ministers and what have they learned from the Sangha to sustain them in this role." This session will be open to the public and all BTSA members. Please plan to attend.

On Sunday April 28th there will be a special service celebrating the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching as well as the national Tsuito Hoyo memorial service. The Tsuito Hoyo service is to remember all members of our Canadian Kyodan who have passed away this past year.

We will have a special guest speaker at this service. Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara from the Berkley California temple will present the dharma message. (please see his biography on page 3). The JSBTC will also present Izumi sensei with a special thank you and retirement gift. All of the ministers from across Canada will be in attendance so you don't want to miss this special service.



Kynan Ono led chanting during the March 24th service, and provided the dharma message.

# Rev. Kuwahara Upcoming Guest Speaker



Rev Kuwahara is our guest speaker for the special service on April 28th, 2024

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, the oldest son of a temple family in Kure City, Hiroshima, has been supervising minister of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple since January 2018. Rev.

Kuwahara brings a positive and caring sense of enthusiasm and thoughtful, scholarly knowledge of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Rev. Kuwahara has also served as: co-director of the BCA Center for Buddhist Education; coordinator for both the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course and the International Ministerial Orientation Program in the Hongwanji Office of the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center; and in the International Department of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

He has a master's degree in Jodo Shinshu studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, completed the Ph.D. program in Jodo Shinshu studies from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan, a master's degree in Jodo Shinshu studies from Ryukoku University, and a bachelor's degree in English education from Hiroshima University.

Rev. Kuwahara is married to his wife, Hitomi. They are the parents of three sons: Takato, Eight and Hiroto.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Minyo Dance

Contact Brenda Ikuta for most recent schedule  
[brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com) 403.317.0078

### Meditation Wednesdays @ 9:30am

in-person and online

To register contact Vickie Macarther [spiryoga@shaw.ca](mailto:spiryoga@shaw.ca)

### Introduction to Buddhism Saturdays @ 10:30am - 12pm

Ending April 20th, sessions cover general Buddhism and move onto Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (Pure Land school). You can attend the sessions in-person or via zoom.

Please contact Rev. Roland Ikuta ([rolikuta@shaw.ca](mailto:rolikuta@shaw.ca) or 403-360-8400) to register for the session and/or to get the zoom link. This class is offered for free but donations are always gratefully accepted.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are interested in volunteering at the Soup Kitchen with the temple please contact Emily Stitt, [emistitt@hotmail.com](mailto:emistitt@hotmail.com), 403-380-6683.

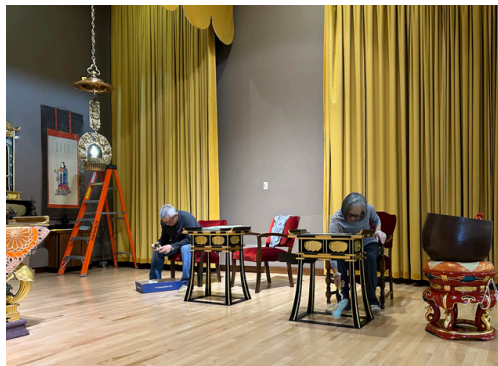
Friday, May 24, 10:00-1:30

Friday, July 5, 10:00-1:30

Sunday, August 18, 9:00-12:00

# Temple Clean-Up

Thank you to volunteers for showing up early on a snowy Spring Equinox Sunday to get the temple spic and span for upcoming events in April. Cleaning went quickly with many hands and good cheer.



photos: Maya Ichikawa, Brenda Ikuta, Alan Tanaka

# MARCH TOBAN

After-service refreshments were provided in the month of March by Toban 1, the Ikigomi youth group.



# KITCHEN ACTIVITIES

In March, Toban members were offered an opportunity to learn how to make anko (red bean paste) using the Instant Pot. They were also offered some learning sessions on making Square Yakimanju and Dorayaki using the anko. These yummy treats were put in the freezer for upcoming April events: Hanamatsuri and the 2024 AGM we are hosting in Lethbridge for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. Big thanks to Sheila Oishi for sharing her time and knowledge with us!



## PHO Cooking Class

Also in March, the temple hosted a cooking class led by Patricia Luu from the Umami Shop. 22 participants learned how to make Pho, a delicious Vietnamese Noodle Soup. Our sincere thanks to Patricia for generously sharing her time, knowledge and culture with us!



photos: Maya Ichikawa, Brenda Ikuta, Kynan Ono,

# 2024 Membership Form

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [THEB.TSA.COM](http://THEB.TSA.COM)

Full Membership  
(\$100 for each member)

Student Membership\*

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home#: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your remittance to:  
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta Treasurer  
470 40th Street South, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z5

**\*Note:** Student membership is limited to persons 18 years or older who are currently registered in a recognized educational institution. It is free of charge with a valid student ID card. Student Members are not entitled to vote at general meetings or to hold office in the B.T.S.A. and this category does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, the national organization.

## LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

2024 Membership  
to March 21 – 92

### Ho-onko

John & Donna Dubbelboer  
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro

### Shotsuki Donations

January 2024

Bob & Eiko Shigehiro

### Shotsuki Donations

February 2024

Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Chiyeko (Chec) Robinson

### Shotsuki Donations

March 2024

John & Donna Dubbelboer  
Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Neil Hinatsu  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Andrew Ichikawa & Tahirih Rempel  
May Nishikawa  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Yoko Nishimura  
Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng  
Setsuko Ohno  
Joe & Mary Shigehiro  
Emily Stitt  
Harry Sugimoto  
Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
Masaya Tanaka

Jim, Marion & Shannon Tomiyama  
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama  
Keith & Kathleen Kaoru Turnbull

### Other Donations

March 2024

Anonymous  
Rena Barlow  
Richard & Valerie Boras  
Community Foundation of Lethbridge &  
Southwestern Alberta  
Dr Roland & Brenda Ikuta  
Estate of Shigeru Kounosu  
Estate of Takeshi "Tak" Okamura  
Kenneth Brent Takeda & Lila Ho -Takeda

### Funeral Donations

March 2024

Anonymous  
B.T.S.A. Member  
Bob S & Molly Akune  
Roy & Itoko Akune  
Ted & Rose Akune  
Eiko Aoki  
John M & Rita Ritsuko Aoki  
Sachiyo Araki  
Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa  
Phyllis Bell  
Cliff & Pat Bogdan  
Richard & Valerie Boras  
Greg & Anita Budd  
Robert & Sandra Chomyc  
Catherine Crighton  
Alice Darby

John & Donna Dubbelboer  
Valerie Fong  
Marg Fujita  
Judy Fukushima  
Felicia Ginstra  
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon  
Dunstan & Nancy Griffin  
Hanako Nadine Hamabata  
Misaya Hamamura  
Lois Hattori  
W Vaughan & Marilyn Hembroff  
William & Pat Henderson  
Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Helen Hikita  
Tomi Hisaoka  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Toshimi & Marian Ibuki  
Andrew Ichikawa & Tahirih Rempel  
Gail Ikebuchi  
Lester & Mickey Ikuta  
Brian Jackson  
Randy & Elaine Joevenazzo  
Lily Kaga  
Tosh & Kazuye Kanashiro  
Suyeko Kanegawa  
Etsuko Karaki  
Michie Kawasaki  
Dave & Val Kunimoto  
Ken Kurio  
Matt & Clara Kurio  
Richard & Donna LaPlace  
Ellen Lorincz  
Joan Lowings  
Michael Grover Matsuda  
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno  
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy

Christine Meyer  
Gerry Miyashiro  
Joyce Miyashita  
Joe & Marion Mori  
Cecil & Miki Murakami  
Harry W. & Beverly Nagata  
Ken & Vickie Nakagama  
Jim Nakagawa  
Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
Lisa Nakamura  
Harold & Rose Nicholson  
Tokiko Nishijima  
Donald & Audry Nishikawa  
May Nishikawa  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Yoko Nishimura  
Chiduko Nowak  
Mitsuko Oga  
Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng  
Setsuko Ohno  
Jitsuya Oishi  
David & Wanda Okamura  
Mas & Ruby Okamura  
Evelyn Osaka  
Garry & Carol Pickett  
Joan Pisko  
Hisae Price  
Darcee Richardson  
Chiyeko (Chec) Robinson  
Brian & Marie Ruzek  
Lyal Sakamoto  
Roy & Pat Sassa  
Sachi Scharf  
Sumio & Shirley Setoguchi  
Joe & Mary Shigehiro  
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
Scott Silverman  
Deb Smith  
Sharon Smith  
Emily Stitt  
Harry Sugimoto  
Tomiko Sugimoto  
Lisa D Sutherland  
Sachiko Taguchi  
Kazuko Takaguchi  
Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
Fugi Takeda  
Kenneth Brent Takeda & Lila Ho -Takeda  
Wendy Takeda  
Alan & Margaret Tanaka  
Eichi & Betty Tanaka  
Glen & Pamela Tanaka  
Ken & Midori Tanaka  
Ayako Taniguchi  
Betty Taniguchi  
Dr. Frances Tatebe & Arnold Ralph  
June Terakita  
Clifford Thomas  
Noel & Karen Thomas  
George Tokuda  
Jim, Marion & Shannon Tomiyama  
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama  
Marjory Tomomitsu  
Masaru James & Miyuki Lilly Tsujita  
Tak & Yoko Tsujita  
Wayne & Amy Tsukishima  
Boyd & Shirley Tucker  
Keith & Kathleen Kaoru Turnbull  
Gerard & Theresa Westwood  
John David & Lois Williams  
Joyce Yalowega  
Rick & Terri Yamaguchi  
Nobby & Rose Yamashita

Please inform us if your name has been omitted or misspelled. Anyone wishing not to be acknowledged in print, let us know so it will not be published. Thank you.

# Kodomo No Hi

## Children's Day Festival

### こどもの日

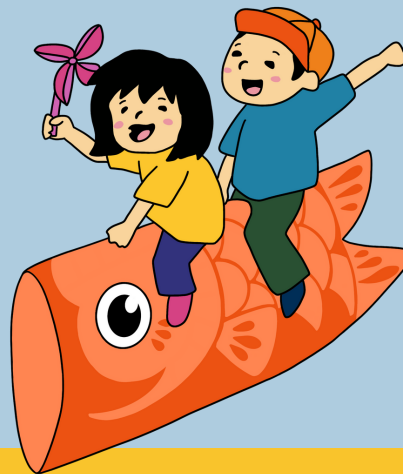
Saturday, May 4th, 2024 | 1pm - 6pm  
At the BTSA

Organized by the BTSA, in collaboration with Ikigomi NCS, NCS Minyo Dancers, and Taka Karate School

#### Activities include:

- Onigiri Gohan Making
- Karate
- Taiko
- Sing-Along
- Storytelling
- Minyo Dancing
- Koi No Bori Making
- Origami
- Scavenger Hunt
- Curry Dinner at 5pm

To register, please email [kynan.ono95@gmail.com](mailto:kynan.ono95@gmail.com) for the SignUpGenius link



## “STAMP” Out Waste With the Women’s Federation

Save the Children-Canada collects used postage stamps for resale to dealers and collectors. Money raised by this method of fundraising is used to help provide a better life and a brighter future for children around the world and in Canada.

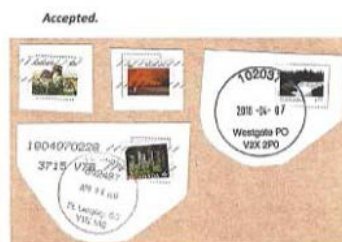
The JSBTC Women’s Federation takes ALL stamps, foreign and Canadian. Please remember to put your stamps in the container in the temple kitchen as they will be taken to the next WF Annual Meeting.

These stamps are sold to stamp collectors by the stamp store so the condition of the stamps is important!

- Please cut with scissors (do not tear!) and leave a 1/3 to 1/2 inch border around the stamp.
- Stamps with postmarks showing location and date are

worth more so please cut around the postmark. Leave multiple stamps together.

- If you have a postcard with the postmark showing the date and location, please turn in the whole postcard - do not cut it.
- If it does not show the town or city, just trim around the stamp with border as below.
- Stamps without enough border trim and machine-generated business postage are not usable.





APRIL: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9:30am Meditation			10:30am Introduction to Buddhism
	1	2	3	4	5	6
2 pm Shotsuki Memorial Hanamatsuri Service 7	8	9	9:30am Meditation 10	11	12	10:30am Introduction to Buddhism 13
10:30 am Regular Service 14	15	16	9:30am Meditation 17	18	19	10:30am Introduction to Buddhism 20
10:30 am Regular Service BTSa AGM 21	22	10am Soup Kitchen 23	9:30am Meditation 24	JSBTC AGM (Lethbridge) 25	JSBTC AGM (Lethbridge) 26	JSBTC AGM (Lethbridge) 27
10:30 am Regular Service 28	29	30				

MAY: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9:30am Meditation			1pm Kodomo mo hi Children's Festival
			1	2	3	4
10:30 am Shotsuki Memorial Service/Gotane - Shinran's Birthday 5	6	7	9:30am Meditation 8	9	10	Karinto-making 11
10:30 am Regular Service 12	13	Casino shifts 14	9:30am Meditation Casino shifts 15	16	17	18
10:30 am Regular Service 19	20	21	9:30am Meditation 22	23	10am Soup Kitchen 24	25
10:30 am Regular Service 26	Bon Odori Practice 27	28	9:30am Meditation 29	30	31	